

POSTLING PARISH COUNCIL

clerk@postling-pc.gov.uk | www.postling-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of Postling Parish Council meeting held at Postling Village Hall on Tuesday 25 November 2025 at 6.30pm

1. Attending: Chairman Frank Hobbs, Councillors George Burgess, Helen Calderbank, Christine Hobbs, Rob Lye, John Patrick, Daniel Shaddick, Parish Clerk Clare Hamilton, District Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee
Apologies: District Cllr Elaine Martin.
2. **It was resolved** unanimously to accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2025.
3. Members' declarations of interest on Agenda items:
Item 6c: Chairman, as trustee and treasurer of PNVH. Cllr Christine Hobbs, as an employee of PNVH.
4. Public Participation session, not required.
5. There were no matters arising from the last meeting not included on the agenda.
6. Planning Applications received since last meeting, circulated to Councillors for comments, outcomes of those deliberations, and to consider any applications received since this agenda was published:
 - a. **25/1556/FH Douglas Farm, Cuckoo Lane, Postling CT21 4ET**
Single-storey side extension, two-storey side extension and a single-storey rear extension, along with a detached garage.
F&HDC Refused. Parish Council: No objection.
 - b. **25/1942/FH Tulips, 7 Orchard Field, Postling CT21 4EE**
Lawful Development Certificate (proposed) for the installation of Solar PV panels to the detached garage.
Comments to F&HDC by 27 November 2025. Parish Council: No objection.
 - c. **25/2074/FH Postling Village Hall, The Street, Postling CT21 4EU**
Installation of solar panels to side roof slopes.
Comments to F&HDC by 16 December 2025. Parish Council: No objection.
7. Highways
 - a. Highway Improvement Plan (HIP) progress since last meeting:
 - Proposed reduction of existing Postling 30mph speed limit to 20mph: KCC Highways request an Informal Consultation with the parish to canvass opinion on reduction of speed limit to 20mph. A draft was approved and will be delivered to residents with the Lyminge Newsletter and via the email list.
 - Advisory signage on Sandling Road to deter HGVs:
Following the disappointing lack of support for this by Highways, to request more parishioner photos as evidence of problems caused by large vehicles.
 - b. Advertising van on bridge over M20: Ref 892178, status 'Enquiry under investigation'. Also reported to F&HDC Head of Planning by Cllr Hollingsbee.
 - c. Abandoned BMW in layby on A20 Ashford Road has been reported to F&HDC.

Chairman Frank Hobbs

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8. Finance

a. Balance of account at 25 November 2025: £4,914.50

b. Payments and Receipts since last meeting:

Hopkins	Replacement electrode pads	213.90
C Hamilton	Salary Aug Sept	452.40
C Hamilton	Backpay 1Apr-30Sept	43.68
HugoFox	Website hosting	11.99
PNVH	PC donation: solar panels	500.00
HugoFox	Email addresses set-up fee	120.00
HugoFox	Email hosting	2.99
HugoFox	Website hosting	11.99

c. Expenditure due before next meeting:

C Hamilton	Salary Oct Nov	£ 466.96	
HugoFox	Website hosting Dec Jan	£ 19.98	vat £4.00
	Email hosting Dec Jan	£ 5.98	

It was resolved to approve expenditure, proposed by Cllr Dan Shaddick, seconded by Cllr George Burgess, and approved unanimously.

d. **It was resolved** to request a Precept 2026/27 of £4,957.00 which includes £194 for the fortnightly waste bin collection plus £100 for a replacement metal bin liner.

9. Reports from District and County Councillors - *see Appendix*

10. Local Government Reorganisation

Cllr Hollinsbee reported that, at the Extraordinary full Council on 19 November the decision was to recommend to Cabinet that Model 3a was the preferred model for FHDC. This was ratified by Cabinet and will now be put forward by the Leader to Government on 28 November 2025. Model 3a keeps East Kent together ie. Folkestone & Hythe, Dover, Canterbury, Ashford and Thanet.

11. Website & Email charges

Website domain name and hosting remains £9.99 per month, email hosting is now £2.49 per month (ex. VAT).

12. Defibrillator

Infant/Child Reduced Energy Electrodes expire 16.12.2025. Chairman to pursue payment with Nursery.

13. Waste bin

Veolia will charge £194 per annum for emptying bin every 4-6 weeks. New metal bin liner to be purchased.

14. Otterpool Park Working Group

The first Working Group meeting since June was held in November. It was originally understood that no housing could be built before sewerage was in place, but it is now thought that 200 houses can be built and added to the current sewerage system.

15. For Information

- KALC Community Awards Scheme 2026: submission deadline 30.01.26
- Tory Family Foundation: some funds are available for local projects
- 2026 meeting dates: 27 January, 24 March, 26 May, 28 July, 29 September, 24 November
- Next Parish Council meeting: 27 January 2026
- Meeting closed at 7.23pm.

Signed..... Cllr Frank Hobbs, Chairman, 27 January 2026

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Appendix Reports from District and County Councillors

District Councillor Elaine Martin

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

At the Extraordinary Full Council meeting last week it was agreed that F&HDC will put forward option 3a to the Government for LGR. This will divide Kent into three Unitary Authorities and combine F&HDC with Ashford, Dover, Canterbury, and Thanet. The other 12 District Councils, Medway and KCC are all putting forward their preferred option but ultimately it will be the Government who make the final decision as to how Kent will be split. It is expected there will be public consultation on the recommended option(s) for Kent in spring 2026.

Otterpool Park Update

F&HDC have entered into a further Collaboration Agreement with Homes England to last until December 2026. The next step is to progress from the Resolution to Grant to secure full planning approval for Otterpool Park. It has been agreed that F&HDC and Homes England enter into a further intense period of formal joint working through a Planning Collaboration Agreement which will focus on securing the consent and enabling early phase delivery of new homes within this Parliament. They will endeavour to submit an updated planning application pack within 6 months and secure the grant of planning permission within 12 months of the signing of the agreement. There will be a longstop date for this agreement of 31st December 2026.

EES

The European Entry Exit system started on the 12th of October. It is going to be a phased implementation over 6 months from October 2025 to April 2026. The first time you cross to France you will need to provide your fingerprints and a facial scan for future facial recognition purposes. This will only happen the first time and will take a few extra minutes so there may be some hold ups at the crossing points, the Channel Tunnel and Dover. This should save time for future visits because your passport will not need to be stamped. In the meantime, the KCC website gives the latest - <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/travelling-around-kent/eu-entryexit-system> and there is an email where you can report any traffic problems - ees@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Funding agreed to help homelessness

A £5m investment was agreed for F&HDC to purchase 20 more properties to be used for homeless households in the district. Using council-owned properties as temporary accommodation reduces the reliance on private, nightly-let temporary accommodation and is more cost-effective in the long term.

Rural reminder

As a result of central government funding F&HDC has £70,000 available to provide capital grant funding for businesses and community projects in the district's rural areas. More information can be found on the Folkestone Works website.

Folkestone – A Brighter Future

Temporary bus shelters have been installed in Middelburg Square, Folkestone. Due to supply chain delays, the contractor Bauer Outdoor Media are unable to install the permanent shelters until next year. Work creating the rain gardens element of the project is underway. The gardens will collect run-off water and filter pollutants to water vegetation and provide a natural habitat for wildlife. Bouverie Square will have an underground filtration system to collect and reuse rainwater to water surrounding plants. Cheriton Road will have rain gardens and 18 new trees planted along the road.

Folkestone Central Library

A joint approach to bringing the library in Grace Hill, Folkestone, back into use as a multi-use centre is being made. Creative Folkestone and Sunflower House announced at the end of last month that they propose working together to secure central government funding. The vision is to create a multi-use space as a library alongside new areas for education, creative industries and community events in a repaired and restored building. Kent County Council put the building up for sale in the summer.

My Community Voice

If you have not already done so, please can I encourage you to sign up for My Community Voice. It is an email service run by Kent Police and regularly sends out updates such as fraud alerts.

Contact: Elaine.Martin@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

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District Councillor Jenny Hollingsbee

Otterpool Park – The District Council has, subject to no 'call in' agreed further collaboration with Homes England. From the outputs of the work to date a critical next step is to secure full planning approval for Otterpool Park. It is proposed that the Council and Homes England enter into a further period of formal joint working to December 2026 through a Planning Agreement which will be focused on securing the outline consent and enabling the early delivery of new homes. Heads of Terms The Heads of Terms (HoT) which will form the basis for the detailed drafting / negotiation of the Planning Agreement can be found here [Decision - OTTERPOOL PARK: PLANNING AGREEMENT WITH HOMES ENGLAND | Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#). The agreement will cover the period up to the grant of outline planning approval and completion of related work.

Folca (previously Debenhams) The freehold of the c.26,963 square foot space, known as Folca 1, is for sale with marketing agents Avison Young. Sited in a prime town centre location, the building could be suitable for a variety of uses – subject to planning permission. Folca 1 is currently detached from Folca 2 (the Art Deco section of the building) on the first and second floors. The connection between the two on the ground and basement levels will be separated by the council early next year prior to sale.

Folkestone Library – Creative Folkestone has recently announced a plan to work in Partnership with KCC and the Community. It is well known that the Central Library building is in need of extensive maintenance and repairs. Creative Folkestone said "a Significant capital investment will be required to realise the vision we have set out. The proposal to Kent County Council is to work together and apply for central government funding that will enable this important community asset to be brought back to life."

Bus shelters along Middelburg Square - the new Folkestone Bus Station, have recently been installed. The temporary shelters have been sourced to protect passengers from the elements over the coming months. A delay in the supply chain has meant contractor Bauer Media Outdoor (BMO) is unable to install the permanent shelters until early 2026.

Remembrance Day – it was good to see so many services being held across our Ward for Remembrance Sunday. I attended All Saints Stanford with the service starting outside by the Memorial in quite warm and dry weather. It is good to be reminded of those who lost their lives in our Villages and eighty years after the end of the Second World War – 'We will remember them'.

Local Government Reorganisation – At the Extraordinary full Council on 19 November the decision was to recommend to Cabinet that Model 3a was the preferred model for FHDC. This was ratified by Cabinet and will now be put forward by the Leader to Government on 28 November 2025. Model 3a keeps East Kent together ie Folkestone & Hythe, Dover, Canterbury, Ashford and Thanet.

Thanks – it is the time of the year when I would like to say 'thank you' to – the Parish Councillors, the Village Hall Committee, the PCC and all the volunteers and leaders of various groups in the Village and the surrounding area who give so much time to the local community. May I wish you all, and all local residents a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk Mobile 07887918458

Report from Chris Hespe, Kent County Councillor for Elham Valley

Local Government Reorganisation

The recent consultation on local government reorganisation has demonstrated that the public of Kent remain unconvinced about its merits, they recognise the benefit of strategic, county-wide services and the economies of scale that they bring and the need to keep the identity of Kent intact, but they also want local level involvement in decision-making. Only 17% of respondents didn't believe that cost should be a major factor in local authority structures. KCC is to submit its proposal to central government by 28 November 2025 for a single Unitary Council with three Area Assemblies. The model would be £325 million less expensive over 10 years than a three Unitary model being put forward by some districts, and more than £400 million less expensive than other options, with lower transition costs too. Known as option 1 (a), the KCC proposal would enable a mix of strategic capability and local accountability via the Area Assemblies and strong 'community engagement' structures, whilst causing minimum disruption and not causing major resilience problems in disaggregating people-based services such as Adult Social Care and SEND.

The government will outline its preferred option in early 2026, followed by a government-led public consultation before the final announcement in early Summer 2026. Any new arrangements would be in place in early 2028.

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Strategic Statement 'Reforming Kent'

KCC has produced a strategic statement entitled, 'Reforming Kent' which sets the objectives and direction of travel for KCC and Kent for the next three years. Its overall aim is to enhance the health, wellbeing and quality of life of residents, whilst looking after the environment and supporting local businesses. This strategic statement will act as the overall plan for the administration's work.

Solar Farms

There are numerous proposals for solar farms in Kent currently, many of which are on high quality agricultural land and areas of landscape sensitivity. KCC has commenced work to produce an Energy Strategy which will support a mixed economy of provision, but which will take into account environmental matters, whilst objecting to excessively large solar developments.

International Rail Services

KCC gathered together all key stakeholders at Ashford International Station on 26 September in an effort to press for the reintroduction of international trains to stop again in Kent; a service that ceased in 2020. Following that event, the Office for Rail and Road has granted Virgin Trains access to Temple Mills International Depot, thereby bringing the potential reintroduction of the stopping service closer.

Budget

The KCC budget consultation attracted 56% more responses than any previous consultation. The starting position for 2026/27 will be with KCC having to find at least £50 million savings, with potentially more if the national Adult Social Care crisis is not addressed.

In the first six months of the new administration, KCCs debt has been reduced by £67 million, and £100 million of savings for the current financial year have been implemented, with a further £53.5 million future savings identified.

KCC has produced its first-ever Commercial Strategy, which should result in better value in contracts and procurement in months and years to come.

Funding for All

Any voluntary sector or charitable organisation seeking funding for projects can receive free advice from the charity 'Funding for All'. There is also excellent and useful information on its website at fundingforall.org.uk

There is still some funding available in the Member Community Grants Scheme administered by KCC. If you have a project or event that is seeking a small grant (perhaps £250 to £500), please email me with a broad outline to get the ball rolling on Christopher.Hespe@kent.gov.uk

Highways

KCC is implementing a £67 million investment into road repairs, to include the biggest pothole repair programme in the UK. In the past six months, KCC has filled 22,000 potholes, carried out 250,000 square metres of road patching (approx. 35 Wembley Stadiums in area) and resurfaced 210,000 square metres of road. Preparations for Winter travel have been made, with the stockpiling of 23,000 tonnes of salt, 60 gritter lorries and driver training being arranged.

'Brand Kent'

With partners, KCC has created 'Brand Kent'; an in-house solution for inward investment and the visitor economy, following the demise of Locate in Kent and Visit Kent.

School Crossing Patrols

The provision of 'Lollipop Men and Women' was scheduled to stop by the previous administration at County Hall. The new administration has decided to continue with the provision of this service.

Chris Hespe Christopher.Hespe@kent.gov.uk

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